

Thursday, May 27, 2010

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted overflights for reconnaissance, wildlife rescue missions and bird survey missions. Continued to focus attention on Louisiana coast west of the Mississippi River. Response personnel including Service representatives are responding to a report indicating a significant patch of seaweed and emulsified oil 30-40 miles off the coast at Horn Island. Shoreline monitoring, wildlife surveys, and where needed clean-up activities are taking place and focused on Breton, Delta, and Bon Secour NWRs. Natural resource damage assessment surveys are underway at Bon Secour and Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuges. More than 340 Service employees are directly engaged in the agency's response to this emerging environmental disaster, and a total of 33 national wildlife refuges could potentially be impacted along the Gulf Coast..

Delta NWR:

Additional boom deployed. No oil impacting the refuge. Wildlife and oil impact surveys are ongoing.

Breton NWR.

Multiple layers of boom for key nesting islands. Additional boom maintenance underway. No new oil is impacting the refuge. Boat skimmers were deployed by BP to attempt to collect strands of oil in the water approaching Breton, which remains closed to public access to protect nesting birds.

Bon Secour NWR

Boom has been deployed and temporary sand berms have been constructed to protect refuge habitats. No new tar balls reported today, and preparation continues to add additional protection for dune habitats at the refuge. Coordination continues with multiple agencies.

St Marks & St Vincent NWRs:

Preparations continue with boom planning and surveys. Coordination continues with multiple agencies.

Grand Bay NWR:

Boom has been deployed to protect refuge habitats. Continue planning and coordination.

Key West Sector/Nat Key Deer NWR:

Planning and coordination continues as operations in the Keys and Miami expand.